

Why Not read

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Gul. THE *Grant*
C H A R A C T E R
O F A

Disbanded Courtier.

*Dedicated to the Author of that Famous Speech, call'd, The Speech of
a Noble Peer.*

By a Person of Quality.

HE was Born of a considerable Family, Heir to a Fortune above contemptible; but with an aspiring mind, by much too high flown for his Quality, and his Estate.

His Behavior towards his King was so Loyal in times of difficulty and danger, that every body who knew him, knew he deserv'd Advancement; advancement at least as high as that of *Haman*.

His dexterity in doing ill, made him thought capable of performing admirably well, if ever he came to be publickly employ'd and entrusted.

So he was prefer'd for his Ability, to the highest places of Honour and Office; admitted into the Cabinet-Councils, made acquainted with all the Secret Wheels, and could tell how many Cogs there were in each wheel, upon which the great Engine of State was turned, and kept in motion.

By the Favor of his Prince he acquired sufficient Riches, to support the splendor of a Family, new rais'd to the degree of Nobility.

His Glory was once so eminently conspicuous, that there were but a few persons below the Crown, seem'd above him, and nothing was wanting to render his Felicity as lasting as Nature intended his Life; but a heart that knew how to be grateful, to a most Munificent Benefactor.

He thought all the Favours, and Honours, he enjoyed, were less than the reward of his Merit; that thought puff'd him up with pride, such a sort of pride, as is usually attended with an irrecoverable fall, which was his Fortune, and at his fall, (like that of *Lucifer*, his Predecessor) might very well have been proclaim'd, *Woe to you the*

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Inhabitants of the earth, for the Devil is come down among you.

Open revenge against his Sovereign, being too dangerous to attempt, he presently resolves upon secret, he exposes all the Weaknesses and Infirmities of the Court ; (from which no Court, or City, or Country, is, or will ever be free,) and where he can find no real faults he feigns imaginary ones, and passes them off for current.

By his new and false Optic, he represents every Mole-hill of Mistake, in the publick administration, for a Mountain as tall as *Teneriff*, and as dangerous as the top of *Ætna*; nay, he Multiplies, and Magnifies, the very miscarriages, which were the effect of his own evil Council.

He amuses the freest Nation in the Universe, with wild rumours, and extravagant apprehensions of Slavery ; under the Government of a Prince, who in Acts of Favor, and Mercy, and Clemency, has exceeded all his Predecessors.

He fills the heads of the People full, with whimsical Fears, or phantastick Devils, *Chymera's*, which only his Malice had rais'd, on purpose to frighten them out of their Loyalty, and their Wits, and prepare and ripen them, for Bedlam, or Rebellion.

He makes the pretences of Liberty, the Stirrup to get up, and Religion the Steed he Rides, in pursuite of his Monstrous Designs.

With these pretences he cheats the Innocent, (after tickling their Fancies with the Feather of Ambition) and promising to open their Eyes, serves them as the Apostate Angel did our Parents in Paradise, only blows into them the Dust of Disobedience, and then robs them of those Jewels he undertook to bestow, (*viz.*) Liberty, * and Religion, † which are both so much talk'd of, and both so little understood.

* *Liberty is not a Freedom for every man to do what he pleases; such a freedom would impower the worst part of Mankind to Ruine, and enslave the best. Just Laws, well executed, are the truest Liberties of just Men, and should be the outmost extent of their wishes.*

† *Religion does not consist in the stubborn adhering to a Faction, or in crying up one Party or Profession as Infallible, and Censuring all others as Damnable; but in doing Justice, and loving Mercy, and walking humbly with God, says Malachi the Prophet. And it is first Pure, then Peaceable, says St. Paul the Apostle.*

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Being a Gentleman of no Religion himself, he seems for all that to Espouse every Division, and Sub-division of it; every Faction, and Person, who are bold enough to stand stiff in opposition to the *Ancient and Well settled Government*.

If he be by Inclination Covetous, and temperate by Nature and Habit; he rather chuses to invert Nature it self, than suffer a disappointment in his Designs of *Revenge* to which he makes a Sacrifice at once, both of his *Vertues* and his *Vices*.

He keeps open house for Entertainment of all State-Male-Contents, without consideration of Quality or Qualifications.

He Accompanies and Carrowses, and Contracts Intimacy and Amity, with the lewdst Debauchees in all the Nation, that he thinks, will any ways help to forward his private Intrigues.

He becomes all things, to all men, in the very worst of senses: perverting the design of *St. Paul*, that he may at least prevail upon some, to be as bad as himself.

Nor are soft and easie men by him only deluded, he is too cunning for the very Lawers themselves, (tho they are too cunning for all the rest of mankind) a most Eminent *Attorney*, and a famous *Solicitor*, and a Reverend *Judge*, are not free from the force of his Inchantments.

By the Subtilty of his Insinuations, he bewitches to Associate with him, great part of the New, and of the Sons of the old Nobility: the Sons of such *Fathers*, as died in the faithful Defence of their suffering Sovereign.

He Deceives (besides a number of other great Men, and great Councillors) a *General* of an Army, a *Vice-Roy* of a Kingdom, a *Darling* of the People, and a *Son* to the Greatest, and the best of *Fathers* upon Earth.

He would fain be reputed as constant as the *Sun*; and yet this Age has produced nothing beneath the *Moon*, more fickle and variable, for he never was, and 'tis like never will be true to any thing, save only the Eternal Resolution of doing *Mischief*.

Having lost his Honour with his *Prince*, and the good Opinion of the best Subjects and best Men; he cringes and creeps, and sneaks to the meanest and basest of the People, to procure himself among them, an Empty and vain-glorious, because undeserved Name: the *Patriot* of his Countrey.

And hoping to be shortly made, the little Head of the *Great Rabble*: he would perswade them to believe that they are all betray'd; and that the *King* himself is in the *Plot* against himself; as well as in the *Plot* against them.

He Encourages them to strike home, against those whom he calls the Enemies of the King and Kingdom: (pointing at the Faithfullest and most affectionate Servants to both) well knowing that the mighty *Fabrick* can never be shaken; till its main Pillars and Supporters, be by cunning and sly Stratagem, either destroy'd or undermined.

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At last, through the *Divine Providence*, the *Magical Mist* he had cast before mens eyes, dissipates, and totally vanishes.

The *Hypocritical vail* falls off, of its own accord, leaving his deformity naked, and openly exposed.

His dearly beloved *Mistress Popular Applause* forfakes him, and to compleat his undoing, he lives to see the *Death and Burial* of his *Fame*: even to the very *Fame* of his *Polities*.

So that nothing remains to yield him *Consolation*, after such sensible and biting *Disgraces*; but only the *Liberty* he has left him, to follow the great *Example* of *King David's* defeated *Polition*.

POSTSCRIPT to the Printer.

IF you be curious to know who is meant by this *Character*; you may easily imagine, 'tis *Simon de Montford Earl of Leicester*: in whose time the *Wood Parliament* sate at *Westminster*.

He was one while a *Prime Favourite* of the *King*, one while the *meer Idol* of the *People*; sometimes a *Rebell*, and alwayes a *Rogue*.

However, If any man now alive, claim a *Propriety* in any part of the *Character*, you may tell him, the *Author* is a peaceable *Person*, and rather then stand a *Suit* at *Law*, let every one take what part he calls his own, and much good may it do him.

Farewell.

ED Re-Printed in the year, 1683.

